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### PSC 526.50: Issues in State and Local Government

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# PSc 526 SYLLABUS

## ISSUES IN STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Online Class)

Online Class for the University of Montana MPA Program

Fall Semester 2005 / September 7 - December 7

Professor: Jeffrey Greene

***PSc 526 is open to graduate students in any UM program and to UM seniors that have a 3.0 or higher GPA***

***[Click here to log onto Blackboard](#)***

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### OVERVIEW OF THE ONLINE VERSION OF PSc 526 THE ONLINE VERSION OF PSc 526

This is the third time that **PSc 526, Issues in State and Local Government and Local Government** has been offered online. The class is part of the **Online MPA Program** and can be counted toward either the MPA degree at the University of Montana's campus program in Missoula, or the **Online MPA Program**. For more information about the MPA Program, visit the following link [MPA Program](#). This class is essentially an online version of the **Seminar in State and Local Government and Local Government**, which was offered to Helena MPA students in the past. Although the discussion cannot completely simulate a traditional seminar, online classes are becoming more popular. You do not have to attend any classes and you can complete the work at a time that is convenient for you. The entire MPA program is now available online.

Students can register for this class online at the UM website, <http://cyberbear.umt.edu>, or by calling the Registrar's Office at UM (406-243-2995). The class is open to any interested student, including students in the Missoula area. Every effort has been made to make this online class work seamlessly using a state-of-the-art computer blackboard system maintained by the University of Montana. It is recognized that an online class cannot completely replicate an interactive seminar with a group and a professor gathered in a room. This limitation should be noted at the outset.

The class consists of 13 sessions. The material that is assigned is due on **Wednesday night** of each week of the class. The due dates are designated on the syllabus. ***You should begin your work on September 7; the work is due the following Wednesday, September 14.*** Each session will consist of a brief summary about the topic, a variety of readings and several questions (no more than three questions). Students will post their responses to the questions and may enter into a dialogue with other students about the subject matter. The intention is to generate an online dialogue among students similar to the dialogue that one would get in a traditional seminar. Students may post their comments and responses to the questions online at any time during week as long as their final comments are made by Wednesday of each week. The comments should be kept parsimonious -- that is, kept to a short, well-written paragraph. On **Thursdays**, I will read over the dialogue and make comments. ***Students should always feel welcome to contact me personally via e-mail at [jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu](mailto:jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu) or by phone (406-243-6181) if you have any questions about the session or the course.***

The theme of this class, like the traditional seminar that has been taught many times at UM and in the old Helena MPA program class, is the *resurgence of the states thesis*. This thesis was made popular by Bowman and Kearney during the mid-1980s with their book, *Resurgence of the States* (Prentice Hall, 1984). Although a bit more challenging with the online version, this class will focus on the resurgence theme and incorporate a wide variety of issues about state government. There will be several topics that deal with local government included,

but the primary focus is on the states.

There are a few requirements, such as participating on the **Discussion Board**, article critiques or summaries, and a single question exam. These are explained below in the syllabus and can be sent as attachments to me by e-mail at [jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu](mailto:jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu) as either an HTML or Word (any version) file. I do not have WordPerfect installed on any of my computers, so if you use WordPerfect, please save the file as an HTML file, then send it as an attachment. Each student will select three articles and write brief (two pages or less) critiques. Students should select articles for their **three critiques** from *State and Local Government: CQ's Guide to Current Issues and Activities* or *State of States*. There are links to examples of each of these assignments further down in the syllabus. Please note there is a difference between a critique and an abstract. The course will also include a single question exam. The responses can be e-mailed at the end of the term and should not exceed 6 single-spaced pages. The question is: *Evaluate the evidence that suggests there has been resurgence in the states' ability to govern during the past 40 years. Do you agree or disagree? And, what are the prospects for the future regarding the role of the states (and local governments) in the federal system?* Again, these documents should be sent as attachments via e-mail (HTML or Word documents), or simply mailed as hard copies to my office. Please note this is due **December 7**.

**TEXTS** (These texts can be ordered from the UC Bookstore at 406-243-1234. You can e-mail the bookstore at [contact@umtbookstore.com](mailto:contact@umtbookstore.com) or visit their website at <http://www.umt.edu/bookstore>. The UC Bookstore will ship the books directly to your home or office). There are 4 books required for this class and one book that is optional.

**1. State and Local Government**, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Ann Bowman and Richard Kearney (Note that all of the chapters included in the Bowman and Kearney text are not assigned). *This is the main textbook that will be used.*

**2. Readings and Cases in State and Local Politics**, (edited by Richard Clucas). *This is the main reader for the class, which also contains case studies.*

**3. State & Local Government: CQ's Guide to Current Issues and Activities 2006-07** (edited by Beyle) *The newer version of this book was not ready when this syllabus was prepared. Thus, we will use it for article summaries. No readings will show for the book (except for reading Chapter 1) and you can use any version of the book. It is published annually. This book is OPTIONAL.*

**4. Governing: Issues and Applications from the Front Lines of Government**, 2nd Edition, (edited by Alan Ehrenhalt). Parts of this book will be used. It is also a great book for general public administration.

**5. Governing Magazine**, which is available for **free** online at [www.governing.com](http://www.governing.com)

**Governing: The Magazine of States and Localities**, contains many articles and current events that may be discussed during the class. (You can view current and many past editions of **Governing** at the link shown above).

## COURSE DESCRIPTION & REQUIREMENTS

State government is one of the most exciting areas in political science. This course examines the evolution and development that has taken place in the states since the founding period. It focuses on the basic institutions as well as a broad spectrum of public policy issues that affect governing in the states. The objective of the course is to provide a forum to discuss a wide range of issues involving state government. Students' proficiency with the material included in PSc 526 will be assessed via a written exam, written article summaries, and by the quality of participation (the Discussion Board). The theme of the class is the Bowman and Kearney notion that there has been a "resurgence of the states." Specific learning objectives can be viewed online.

Grades will be based on the quality of the responses posted on the **Discussion Board**, a final, comprehensive exam, and writing summaries for the articles included in *CQ's Guide to Current Issues in State and Local Government* or any of the readings included in the class. You can also use articles found in material outside the class. The final exam consists of one question: *Evaluate the evidence that suggests there has been resurgence in the states' ability to govern during the past 40 years. Do you agree or disagree? And, what are the prospects*

for the future regarding the role of the states (and local governments) in the federal system? This seems to be a timely question given the current circumstances of the nation dealing with terrorism, which has led to a call for federalization of a variety of areas (security workers at airports and the new cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security). Your responses can be sent via e-mail or regular mail.

### Article Critique (or Summary) Guidelines

The CQ books contain a variety of articles that are typically assigned to students on the first day of a traditional class. To help facilitate the online version, students may pick any three (3) articles from any source used in the class (or from *Governing Magazine*), and write critiques. These should be e-mailed during the semester to [jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu](mailto:jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu). Of course, you can simply mail hard copies of the critiques if you prefer. There are some specific questions one should consider while reading the article and developing a summary (or critique). The purpose is to enhance one's ability to write short, concise reports -- no more than two pages -- about complex material. One should attempt to summarize the article in a single page if possible. .

1. What is the major subject and theme of the article?
2. What is the major question the author addresses?
3. What techniques, tools of analysis, or methods are employed by the author to answer the question?
4. What major points does the author make?
5. What does the author conclude? What suggestions are made?
6. What is the relevance of the article to theory or practice?

[Click here](#) for a sample **Article Summary**

### Grade Weights

Exam .....50 percent (The *Resurgence of the States* question)  
 Participation .....30 percent (Based on the online responses)  
 Article Critiques.....20 percent (Based on the **three** article critiques or summaries)

### Grading System at UM

Please note that the **University of Montana** now uses a **Plus/Minus grading system**. That is, you can receive an A, A-, B+, B, B- and so on. There is not an A+ in the scale and the system was implemented in the **Fall 2004 Semester**.

To accommodate the **Plus/Minus system** a new grading scale will be used. In **PSc 501** grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale. This scale and system is more complex than the system used in the past but rewards **As** only to those students whose performance in the class is "exceptional."

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Point Scale</u>	<u>Point Range</u>	<u>GPA</u>
A	93-100	8 points	4.00
A-	90-92	3 points	3.67
B+	87-89	3 points	3.33
B	83-86	4 points	3.00
B-	80-82	3 points	2.67
C+	77-79	3 points	2.33
C	73-76	4 points	2.00
C-	70-72	3 points	1.67

D+	67-69	3 points	1.33
D	63-66	4 points	1.00
D-	60-62	3 points	.067
F	59 or lower	N/A	0.00

### Other Information

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**Political Science Website:** <http://www.umt.edu/polsci>

## COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

### Session 1 Introduction: New Directions for the States and the Quiet Revolution Images of the States, Political Culture , and Current Issues in the New Century Images of the States, Political Culture , and Current Issues in the New Century

**Assigned September 7; Due September 14**

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 1

Clucas: Chapter 1, "The Changing Position of State Government: The Concept of Resurgence"  
"Governance and the Changing American States," by Hedge  
Case Study 1: "Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future"

Chapter 2, Understanding Differences Across the States  
"The Political Subcultures of the United States," by Elazar  
Case Study 2, "American Hayride," by Gold

CQ: Chapter 1 *Just the introduction*

Ehrenhalt: No readings

### Session 2 Federalism (and State Constitutions)

**Due September 21**

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 2 and 3

Clucas: Chapter 3, "Redistributing Powers Among Governments: The Concept of Devolution"  
"The Devolution of Tortoise and the Centralization hare," by Kincaid  
Case Study 3, The Role of Homeland Security," by Posner

Ehrenhalt: "Federalism"

- # 29 "Enemies of the State," by Greenblatt
- # 30 "Made in Sacramento," by Swope
- # 31 "Squeezing the Federal Turnip," by Greenblatt
- # 31 "HUD the Unlovable," by Swope

Clucas: Chapter 4 "State Constitutions: The Concept of Distinctiveness"  
"The Distinctiveness of State Constitutionalism," by Tarr  
Case Study 4: "Alabama Constitution at Heart of Controversy," by Goens

### **Session 3 Political Participation in the States**

***Due September 28***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 4

Clucas: Chapter 5: Chapter 5 "Political Participation: The Concept of Civic Engagement"  
"Thinking About Social Change in America," by Putnam  
Case Study 5: "Theology of Organizing: From Alinsky to the Modern IAF," by Warren

Ehrenhalt: No readings

This is an interesting link about local government. Everyone should read this article from the *Tucson Citizen*. The same question could be posed, "Who Runs Missoula?" Or, "Who runs Billings?"

"Who Runs Tucson?" This is a special story from the *Tucson Citizen* (the local newspaper) that is available online. Everyone should read this article. This link worked as when I tested it. You can also go to [www.tucsoncitizen.com](http://www.tucsoncitizen.com) and look under projects and find the article.

[http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/projects/who\\_runs\\_tucson/index.html](http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/projects/who_runs_tucson/index.html) (2005)

### **Session 4 Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups, Elections, and Interest Groups**

***Due October 5***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 5

Clucas: Chapter 6, "Political Parties and Elections: The Concept of Candidate Centered Campaigns"  
"Thinking about Politicians," by Ehrenhalt  
Case Study 6: "The Body Politic Registers a Protest," by Beiler

Clucas: Chapter 7, "Interest Representation: The Concept of Group Power"  
"Interest Group Power in the Fifty States: Trends Since the 1970s," by Thomas and Hrebenar  
Case Study 7: "The Campaign for the Unpaid Wages Prohibition Act," by Gordon

Ehrenhalt: No readings

### **Session 5 State Legislatures**

***Due October 12***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 9

Clucas: Chapter 8, "State Legislatures: The Concept of Professionalism"  
"The Evolution of the State Legislature: Institutional Change and Legislative Careers," by Thompson and Moncrief  
Case Study 8, "The Sick Legislature Syndrome," by Mahtesian and "Is Professionalization a Pathogen?" by Squire

Ehrenhalt: Article # 3: "In Search of the the Ideal Legislature," by Ehrenhalt and Article # 10, " Going Outside," by Walters

## **Session 6 Governors**

***Due October 19***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 7

Clucas: Chapter 9 "Governors: The Concept of Gubernatorial Success"  
"Understanding Gubernatorial Behavior: A Framework for Analysis," by Crew  
Case Study 9, "In Search of George W." by Dionne

## **Session 7 The Bureaucracy**

***Due October 26***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapter 8

Clucas, Chapter 10, "State Bureaucracy: The Concept of Privatization"  
"The Urge to Privatize," by Sclar  
Case Study 10: "Denver," by Richmond

Ehrenhalt: The section on Human Resources, Articles 9 through 12 are all relevant to this section.

## **Session 8 The Judiciary (and Criminal Justice Policy)**

***Due November 2***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 9, 16

Clucas: Chapter 11, "State Courts: The Concept of the New Judicial Federalism"  
"The Third Stage of the New Judicial Federalism," by Williams  
Case Study 11, "Common Benefits," by McDonald

Ehrenhalt: Policy: Crime

Articles # 21 "Murder Mystery," by Buntin and Article # 22, "Revising Sentences," by Swope

CQ: The CQ reader typically has an excellent section of the judiciary

## **Session 9 State-Local Relations, Finance, and Taxation**

***Due November 9***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 12, 13

Clucas: Chapter 14, "State Finances: The Concept of Budgeting

"Balance of Power: The Case of the Budget," by Rosenthal  
Case Study 14, "California in Crisis," by Evans, Block, and others

Ehrenhalt: Money, Article # 3, "The Great GASB," by Mariani; "Insufficient Funds," by Farney; "The Well Dried Up," by Sostek; and, "Risky Ventures," by Swope

Click here for the link to the article "Punishing Efficiency" by Robert D. Behn on *Governing.com*. The article appeared on *Governing.com* on September 3, 2001. This article raises some interesting issues about budgeting in the states. The article is still applicable today.

## **Session 10 Public Policy and State Issues: Education & Welfare Policy**

***Due November 16***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 15 and 17

Clucas: Chapter 15, "Education: The Concept of School Reform"  
"The Challenge of Change in Complex Policy Subsystems," by Stone, Henig, and others  
Case Study 15, Pittsburgh's Public Schools: A Fragile Balance of Leadership and Institution," by Poretz, Stein, and Jones

Clucas: Chapter 16, "Social Welfare: The Concept of Laboratories of Democracy and Race to the Bottom"  
"Making Something out of Nothing: Welfare Reform and the Race to the Bottom," by Schram and Soss  
Case Study 16, "Getting Opal Caples to Work," by DeParie

Ehrenhalt: Article # 25, "The Left Behind Syndrome," by Greenblatt and Article # 25 "Edge-ucation," by Gurwitt

## **Session 11 Public Policy Issues (including Economic Development and Environmental Policy)**

***Due November 23***

Bowman and Kearney: Chapters 14 and 18

Clucas: No readings

Ehrenhalt: Article # 17, "Trading for Clean Water," by Arrandale

## **Session 12 Local Governments**

***Due November 30***

This session is used to touch on local governments. Because this is such a large area, the readings are limited to Bowman and Kearney, Chapter 10, **The Structure of Local Government** and Clucas, Chapter 12, **Local Government: The Concept of the Model City Charter**. There are two articles assigned from Ehrenhalt. Also, the exam is assigned this week.

"How American City Governments have Changed: The Evolution of the Model City Charter," by Frederickson, Wood, and Logan  
Case Study 12, "Are City Councils a Relic of the Past?" by Gurwitt

Ehrenhalt: Article # 2, "Anatomy of a Merger," by Greenblatt and Article # 20, "Unscrambling the City," by Swope

**Exam is assigned / Due December 7 --- All materials due December 7**



**Session 13 Exams and Article Critiques are Due (December 7)**

*Exams and Article Critiques will be returned by December 14. If you send your materials by regular mail, please include a self-addressed envelope that will hold the materials. If you send your materials by e-mail, they will be graded and returned by e-mail.*

**Class Materials and Transparencies**

[Federalism Time Line Transparency](#)

[Federalism Time Line Transparency](#) (Adobe Acrobat format. This version is *printer friendly*)

[Learning Objectives](#)

[Link to the Montana State Constitution](#)

**Some additional links to materials**

[ELITE AND PLURALISM MODELS](#) (In Microsoft Word)

[SOCIAL STRATIFICATION MODEL](#) (In Adobe Acrobat format)

[SOURCES OF VALUES](#) (In Adobe Acrobat format)

Houghton Mifflin provides excellent online resources for the Bowman and Kearney text, including exams, outlines, and many links to state-local web sites. [Click here to access these resources](#). (If asked for a username and password, the username/password needed to access certain parts of this website is government/rules). You will find this time line useful for the final exam's major essay. Also, [Stateline.org](#) is a great website dedicated entirely to news and information about the states and their local governments.

Since state nicknames are often mentioned in class as trivia, [click here](#) to read more about the origin of the Tar Heel State (North Carolina). State mottos are also interesting. For example, The state motto for North Carolina, "*Esse Quam Videri*" is Latin for "to be rather than to seem." [Click here](#) for a humorous version of the 50 state mottos.

[Return to Professor Greene's Home Page](#) (This link takes you to the UM website; not Blackboard)

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*Fall 2005 Online Class*

*Issues in State & Local Government*

*Professor: Jeffrey Greene*

*New E-mail: [jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu](mailto:jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu)*

*This version of the syllabus was posted July 28, 2005 / Updated August 15*

*Please note this is the basic syllabus that will appear on Blackboard. The syllabus is subject to be modified before the class begins. Please note that the class on Blackboard will not be available until very close to the first day of class.*